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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. NO REVISIONS SEEN IN SWEDEN'S FOREIGN POLICY

DESPITE SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER PALME'S SELECTION OF SOCIAL DEMOCRAT ANDERSSON, WHO IS OUTSPOKENLY SYMPATHETIC TO THE US, AS HIS NEW FOREIGN MINISTER, EMBASSY STOCKHOLM SEES NO REVISIONS IN THE MAIN LINES OF SWEDEN'S FOREIGN POLICY. WHILE ANDERSSON IS EXPECTED TO EMPHASIZE THE POSITIVE IN BILATERAL RELATIONS, PALME WILL REMAIN THE DOMINANT PERSONALITY IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE EMBASSY COMMENTS THAT ANDERSSON WAS APPOINTED BECAUSE PALME NEEDS HIS CONFIDENCE-INSPIRING, PRESTIGIOUS PERSONALITY TO BROADEN THE APPEAL OF PALME'S BELEAGUERED PARTY. (CONFIDENTIAL) STOCKHOLM 3888, 11/1

2. MOSCOW DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN ITS MIDDLE EAST POSURE

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ACCORDING TO EMBASSY MOSCOW, THE SOVIET HANDLING OF THE

MIDDLE EAST CRISIS REFLECTS MOSCOW'S DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN ITS PRESENCE AND INCREASE ITS INFLUENCE IN AN AREA IT CONSIDERS IMPORTANT FOR STRATEGIC, ECONOMIC, AND POLITICAL REASONS. THIS HAS LED THE USSR TO EXPLOIT EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN EQUAL STATUS WITH THE US AS AN ARBITER IN MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS. IN THIS EFFORT, THE USSR PREFERRED TO AVOID MILITARY CONFRONTATION WITH THE US OVER THE OCTOBER 24-25 DEVELOPMENTS. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THE EVENTS OF THE PAST WEEKS MAY REVERBERATE FOR SOME TIME, RAISING QUESTIONS ABOUT DETENTE WITH THE US AND THE QUALITY OF BREZHNEV'S LEADERSHIP. (CONFIDENTIAL) MOSCOW 13722, 11/1

3. ISRAEL FACING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

EMBASSY TEL AVIV REPORTS THE ISRAELI ECONOMY IS FULLY ON A WAR FOOTING WITH AN ESTIMATED 180,000 WORKERS MOVED INTO WARTIME HIGH PRIORITTY JOBS REPLACING THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN MOBILIZED. A MAJOR ECONOMIC PROBLEM FOR ISRAEL IS THE CLOSURE OF THE BAB-AL-MANDAB STRAIT WHICH HAS PARALYZED EILAT, THE EXIT PORT OF \$80 MILLION PER YEAR IN EXPORTS AND WHERE IRANIAN OIL ENTERS. THE SLOWDOWN IN EXPORTS IS SQUEEZING EXPORTERS FOR WORKING CAPITAL, REPAYMENT OF MANY DEBTS IS FROZEN, AND MANY SMALL BUSINESSES ARE OPERATING AT A FRACTION OF CAPACITY OR HAVE CLOSED DOWN. CONSTRUCTION IS AT A STANDSTILL AND TOURISM IS DOWN TO 25 PERCENT OF NORMAL. (CONFIDENTIAL) TEL AVIV 8848, 11/1

4. DOMESTIC THAW IN KOREA?

THE OCTOBER 26 RELEASE OF KIM TAE-CHUNG FROM HOUSE ARREST AND THE OCTOBER 29 RELEASE AND REINSTATEMENT OF FIFTY-FIVE DISSIDENT STUDENTS MAY INDICATE A RELAXATION OF DOMESTIC POLICIES IN KOREA. DUE TO THE COMPLEX NATURE OF THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT, EMBASSY SEOUL DOES NOT KNOW IF THIS REPRESENTS A LASTING CHANGE BUT WILL ATTEMPT TO ENCOURAGE SIMILAR DEVELOPMENTS. (SECRET) SEOUL 7279, 10/31 (LIMDIS)

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5. QUEBEC'S VOTERS REJECT INDEPENDENCE

QUEBEC'S OCTOBER 29 ELECTION, WHICH RESULTED IN A LANDSLIDE FOR THE LIBERAL PARTY (PL), WAS A CLEAR VOTE FOR CONTINUED FEDERALISM, ALTHOUGH THE SEPARATISTS INCREASED THEIR PROPORTION OF THE VOTE FROM 24 TO 30 PERCENT. THE MAJOR WORRY ARISING FROM THE ELECTIONS IS THAT THE PL WILL HAVE NO EFFECTIVE PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION AND MAY

NOT SUFFICIENTLY CONSIDER MINORITY VIEWS, CREATING NEW
PROBLEMS. (CONFIDENTIAL) MONTREAL 2115, 10/31. KISSINGER

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